

Message Text

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SUBJ: UNDP - 18TH GOVERNING COUNCIL - ITEM 5, REPORT OF
ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1973

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1. SUMMARY: GOVERNING COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 5, REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1973, INTRODUCED BY ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON, WHO STRESSED ROLE OF UNDP IN CONTRIBUTING TO OBJECTIVES OF PROGRAM OF ACTION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. FULL TEXT OF ADMINISTRATOR'S STATEMENT TRANSMITTED REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN BEGINNING RELATIVELY LENGTHY SPEECH, ADMINISTRATOR SAID MANILA SESSION OF COUNCIL TAKING PLACE IN EVENTFUL YEAR IN ANNALS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (INCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCH EVENTS AS LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE, PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD

DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE). HE SAW 1974 AS YEAR IN WHICH ALARMED REACTION TO CRISES IN SUCH AREAS AS FOOD AND ENERGY MERGED WITH LONG-TERM TRENDS SUCH AS POPULATION GROWTH AND PROLIFERATION OF ARMAMENTS TO PRODUCE ASTONISHING CONVERGENCE OF DEMANDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION. THIS CONVERGENCE DRAMATICALLY ILLUSTRATED BY RECENT SPECIAL SESSION OF GA, WHICH HE SAW AS HISTORIC IN MANY WAYS. FOR FIRST TIME, NATIONS HAD ATTEMPTED TO SET FORTH FUNDAMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS EXISTING AMONG POVERTY, FOOD SUPPLIES, TRADE, DISARMAMENT, POPULATION GROWTH, USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND WORLD MONETARY SYSTEM. SPECIAL SESSION, HE ASSERTED, HAD AS NEVER BEFORE AFFIRMED INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS AND STRENGTHENED ROLE OF UN SYSTEM IN SEARCHING FOR MORE EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. DECLARATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND PROGRAM OF ACTION ADOPTED BY GA, HE ADDED, WOULD HAVE MAJOR INFLUENCE ON FUTURE CONDUCT OF AFFAIRS AMONG NATIONS.

3. AT MANILA, ADMINISTRATOR SAID, UNDP MUST CAREFULLY ASSESS ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN. IT MUST ALSO EXAMINE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN FULFILLING MORE IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS OF SPECIAL PROGRAM TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY ECONOMIC CRISIS. IN BOTH CASES, HE SAID, THERE MUST BE GROWING PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH ABILITY TO DEVELOP OWN RESOURCES AND SKILLS. OTHERWISE, EMERGENCY AID WOULD ONLY PERPETUATE DEPENDENCE OF POOR NATIONS UPON RICH.

4. AFTER STATING THAT UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM HAD PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESPONDING TO MANY OF REQUIREMENTS OF NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, ADMINISTRATOR OUTLINED UNDP EFFORTS AND CAPACITY TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS. ITEMS LISTED INCLUDED: (A) CAPACITY TO SET PRIORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES; (B) IDENTIFICATION OF PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES; (C) PROVISION OF TRAINING, TECHNOLOGY, AND PROCESSING FACILITIES; (D) MOBILIZATION OF INVESTMENT CAPITAL; AND (E) PROMOTION OF EXPORTS.

5. RECALLING THAT SPECIAL SESSION HAD STRESSED THAT ULTIMATE
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AIM OF DEVELOPMENT IS QUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE, NOT JUST INCREASED ECONOMIC OUTPUT, ADMINISTRATOR SAW HOPE IN WORLDWIDE ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPROVE SITUATION OF CLOSE TO ONE BILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN ABSOLUTE POVERTY AND CITED DECISIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNING COUNCIL TO REDISTRIBUTE UNDP RESOURCES FOR BENEFIT OF LOWEST INCOME NATIONS AND GROUPS WITHIN NATIONS. HE ALSO CITED UNDP'S ABILITY TO PROMOTE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND ITS STRUCTURAL AND OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS, WHICH ENABLED

IT TO MEET CRISIS SITUATIONS AS WELL AS ASSIST LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS. BUT WHILE UNDP MUST NOT BE RIGID IN WAYS AND MEANS OF PROMOTING TECHNICAL CAPACITY IT MUST BE FIRM IN HOLDING TO IT AS MAIN PURPOSE.

6. ADMINISTRATOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT DECIDING FACTOR IN SUCCESS OF NEW PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WOULD BE PERFORMANCE OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM. HE STRESSED THAT PERFORMANCE WAS RESPONSIBILITY OF ENTIRE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM. WHILE SYSTEM HAD REASON TO BE PROUD OF QUALITY OF ASSISTANCE AND RESULTS ACHIEVED, QUANTITATIVE IMPROVEMENT WAS REQUIRED. IN THIS REGARD, ADMINISTRATOR SET FORTH SEVERAL NECESSARY ACTIONS AND APPROACHES: (A) PROJECTS WHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN TERMS OF DELIVERY EVEN AT PLANNING STAGE; (B) PERFORMANCE WAS ALSO RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTS, WHOSE ASSISTANCE WAS NEEDED IN SPEDDING RECRUITMENT OF EXPERTS AND COUNTERPART PERSONNEL, IN IMPROVING QUALITY OF PERSONNEL, IN FACILITATING DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT, AND IN ENSURING CLOSE COORDINATION OF ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECT EXECUTION; (C) CONCEPT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MUST BE BROAD, WITH EMPHASIS ON PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS RATHER THAN CONVENTIONAL PRACTICE; (D) EACH ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT INVOLVED MUST BE FULLY AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN MEETING SCHEDULES AND GOALS; AND (E) UN AGENCIES MUST BE ABLE TO TAKE EXTRAORDINARY STEPS TO OVERCOME BARRIERS IMPEDING PRODUCT DELIVERY.

7. ADMINISTRATOR SAID HIS REPORT GAVE SOME INDICATION OF INTENSIVE AND COMPLEX EFFORTS BEING MADE TO ENHANCE UNDP PERFORMANCE. WHAT WAS NEEDED, HOWEVER, WAS FULL AND TOTAL COMMITMENT BY ALL PARTS OF SYSTEM. THIS INCLUDED COMMITMENT BY RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS TO REQUEST AND PROPOSE PROJECTS WHICH CAN BE ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED BY LOCAL RESOURCES; COMMITMENTS UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT EACH GOVERNMENT MINISTRY FULLY UNDERSTANDS ITS ROLE IN SUPPORTING PROJECTS; RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS, ESPECIALLY HUMAN RESOURCES; AND PROCEDURAL SUPPORT TO SPEED PROVISION OF EXPERTS, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER NECESSARY INPUTS.

8. ADMINISTRATOR CONCLUDED BY URGING COUNCIL MEMBERS TO EMPHASIZE IN GA, ECOSOC AND UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES GOVERNING BODIES THAT HIGH PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE AND THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MUST HAVE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN NEW PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION.
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